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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



[The Editor is not responsible for opinions expressed in this Department.]

PROPER POSITION FOR A PATIENT RECEIVING AN ENEMA

DEAR EDITOR: Please give the name of the physician or school that is, or was, the authority for ordering all enemata, when possible, to be given when the patient is lying on the left side. I am a graduate from the largest, best-known training school in the United States, and now, when in charge of a hospital in a country town out west, there has arisen a discussion and the local physicians say I am wrong in teaching this method, "since any one with the first idea of anatomy would understand that when a patient is on the right side the fluid would run into the rectum more easily as, since the left side is up, it would run down hill into the transverse colon."

I find every nursing book advises the placing of patients on left side, just as I was taught, and I think I am right, and I'm sure our nurses, when taking the state board examination, will have an answer marked "incorrect" if they suggest placing patients on right side before inserting the tube.

I have often wondered why the question in regard to high rectal tube insertion has not been proven by an X-ray picture, since there are still many physicians who contend that it is impossible to insert a tube farther than three or four inches; that it merely coils upon itself if further introduction is attempted.

R. N.

HIGH CALORIC FEEDING

DEAR EDITOR: In answer to the letter of "U. T." in the April number, I would say that in typhoid cases in which plenty of ice is applied by means of ice-bags, also eight glasses of water given each 24 hours, and a thorough cleansing bath each morning, in which the skin is scrubbed with *plenty* of soap, the feet being put in the foot-tub and left there for fifteen minutes (a small foot tub is much better for giving a bath than the ordinary bowl, making greater thoroughness possible) that there is greater hunger, but what is more important, greater strength and ability to digest food.

We have in Memphis a physician, Dr. Frank Jones, who instituted high caloric feeding in this part of the country, and to whom the medical profession look as a law on that subject. He, I believe, was followed by the New York physicians who were the first to use the method.

Reading the JOURNAL each month, is like a social visit from old friends. The broad, strong-minded, stimulating expressions from the editor, the charming and able articles from Miss Dock and Miss Scovil always impress me that there are no more capable or finer women in the world—and now that the charm of Miss Drew and Miss Denny have become familiar, I feel that they too are my friends.

Tennessee.

EDITH C. HUNTINGTON.